



Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

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Dear Colleagues,

We can finally offer you and other outpatient health care workers the novel H1N1 flu vaccine for your own protection.

As you know, the vaccine has been rolling out frustratingly slowly. You can see all the updates I've been sending enrolled providers at http://www.maricopa.gov/Public_Health/HotTopics/h1n1flu/resources.aspx. I am well aware that you've been surrounded by ill patients for weeks, and I'm sorry we couldn't get this vaccine to you sooner.

A little history

Initially, we thought we would be receiving much more vaccine given to us by the federal government in weekly allocations. What has happened instead (since our initial allocation in late September) is that we have been receiving daily allocations of far less vaccine. To put it into perspective, as a community, we have received about 1/3 of our projected allocation to date.

Our first allocation was about 36,000 doses of live attenuated vaccine (LAIV) "flu mist." Having no idea at that time that we would be faced with a delay in production and would be forced to make daily decisions on smaller amounts of vaccine, we opted to send this LAIV to hospital health care workers for those with direct patient contact and EMS workers. This was followed by modest amounts of injectable vaccine to hospitals for those unable to take Flu Mist.

As you can read in my updates to registered providers, from that point on, we have been doing our best to send the vaccine to places where those most vulnerable to this illness are served (albeit in small quantities.) Many of those private providers who have ordered and received vaccine for their patients were able to use some of it to vaccinate themselves and their employees. But this has left many more of you who haven't yet been vaccinated.

Vaccinating Health Care Workers in Outpatient Settings

Now, if I were to try to ship it to the many thousands of private practices out there, it would take too long. So we've reached an agreement with Safeway to accept vaccine and distribute it at first *only to health care workers*. We're currently working on contracting with other pharmacies so check back to http://www.maricopa.gov/Public_Health/HotTopics/h1n1flu/resources.aspx often for new pharmacy locations.

Here's how it works: send one employee to one of the participating Safeway pharmacies to pick up enough for you and your staff. Then vaccinate each other with the enclosed vaccine supplies. With this option, the County pays for the entire cost of the vaccine.

Another option is that many pharmacists can administer the vaccine directly to health care workers who present at the pharmacy. (Not all have been certified, so ask before you go). This option may require an out of pocket administrative expense depending on the employee's insurance.

The first supply is available today, but it's only 6700 doses of the live attenuated vaccine (FluMist) and 1,000 doses total of pre-filled syringes (preservative-free). We'll continue to re-supply the

pharmacies as fast as we can and more injectable vaccine should be available shortly for those who cannot use LAIV. Please call 602-747-7111 with vaccine-related questions.

Participating Safeway pharmacies are:

Safeway 0174	(602) 285-0661	520 W. OSBORN	PHOENIX
Safeway 0752	(480) 281-1019	4747 E. ELLIOT RD.	PHOENIX
Safeway 1202	(602) 971-7482	3131 E. THUNDERBIRD RD.	PHOENIX
Safeway 1491	(480) 994-3708	7920 E. CHAPARRAL	SCOTTSDALE
Safeway 1534	(480) 892-2090	90 S. VAL VISTA DRIVE	GILBERT
Safeway 1636	(602) 863-0015	5860 W. THUNDERBIRD RD.	GLENDALE
Safeway 1654	(623) 247-4445	4811 N. 83RD AVE.	PHOENIX
Safeway 1662	(623) 583-6688	10641 W. OLIVE AVENUE	PEORIA
Safeway 2042	(602) 957-4265	3132 E. CAMELBACK RD.	PHOENIX
Safeway 2088	(602) 282-1974	4857 E. GREENWAY RD.	PHOENIX
Safeway 2618	(623) 476-1720	440 N. ESTRELLA PKW	GOODYEAR
Safeway 2676	(480) 281-0180	9101 E. BASELINE RD.	MESA
Safeway 2699	(623) 476-1811	13828 W. WADDELL RD.	SURPRISE

Vaccinating Kids

Now, I know you have all read that this is truly a “younger people’s flu.” So with this in mind, it is important to get the vaccine to kids. The best way to reach lots of kids quickly of course is in the schools. We have worked with Mollen Immunization Clinics so that beginning today (Monday), it will begin offering vaccine to all of our schools in Maricopa County.

Unfortunately, like our situation with health care workers, we are only able to allocate vaccine to the schools in small amounts, far less than we need to vaccinate the more than 600K school-aged children in the county. However, we will continue to allocate vaccine for our school-based children in an attempt to immunize our kids before they get out of school for the winter break.

I understand that this is a frustrating situation for all of us and I wish vaccine was coming in faster so that everyone who wants and needs it has access to it. Unfortunately, wishing doesn’t make it happen. I can assure you that we are doing everything in our power to spread out what little vaccine we receive to ensure it is going directly to people who need it.

Thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,



Bob England, MD, MPH
Director
Maricopa County Department of Public Health